fastening of the band provide the Velcro releasable fastening of the band portion **66***a* in its wrap-around condition shown in FIG. **9**.

As may be seen from FIG. **9**, the extension **66***b* extends along a spiral or helix from the component **14** up to the upper band **60**. At its free end, the extension **66***b* carries at its inside a pile section **74** adapted to be pressed against the section **76** of relatively stiff loops, to provide a releasable Velcro Connection between the top end of the extension **66***b* and the upper band **60**. Thus, the fastening component **76** is inclined so as to extend along the spiral path occupied by the upper end region of the extension **66***b* which carries the fastening component **74** which coacts with the fastening component **76**.

The above-described structure of FIGS. **8** and **9** is shown mounted on a left leg in FIGS. **10–13** which respectively illustrate the structure as seen at the inside of the left leg, at the front of the left leg, at the outside of the left leg, and at the rear of the left leg. Thus, FIG. **10** shows the joint-engaging component **40** at the inside of the leg with the relatively stiff brace member **34** shown extending forwardly along the inside of the leg and then around the front thereof (FIG. **11**) to terminate at the lower component **14** which is visible in FIG. **12** at the outside of the leg below the knee thereof. It is to be noted that while the band portion **66***a* is wrapped around the lower leg region in the manner shown in FIGS. **10–13** with the component **14** situated between the layers of the band portion **66***a*, the extension **66***b* extends from the component **14** and remains directly in engagement with the leg between the latter and the bar **34**, in the manner shown most clearly in FIG. **11**. Thus, in this case a part of the band **66** forms a leg-engaging surface for the component **14**. In other words that part of the band **66** which is fixed to and overlaps the component **14** at the inside thereof directly engages the leg and forms part of the component **14**. This is the part which is contained within the dotted area shown in FIG. **9** as the outline of component **14**. As is apparent from FIG. **13**, the wrap-around portion **66***a* of the band **66** terminates at the rear of the leg just beyond the component **14** at the outside of the left leg.

In contrast with the lower band portion **66***a*, the upper band **60** is connected to the outside of the component **12** and extends over the upper relatively stiff bar **32** of the brace so as to cover this bar as well as the component **12**, and the band **60** is wrapped around the upper limb region and terminates at the location where the rear of the leg merges into the inside of the leg.

As a result the inclined fastening component **76** extends upwardly across the rear of the leg and then to the outside thereof, so that the extension **66***b* of the band **66** will be fastened to the upper band **60** in the manner shown in FIGS. **12** and **13** at the outside and rear of the leg respectively.

The joint-engaging component **40** as fixed to its upper and lower end regions, as by rivets or the like, a pair of encircling straps **80** and **82** which take the form of substantially non-stretchable webbing terminating in buckles for adjustable connection of the bands in a condition extending around the leg at the joint region thereof. The upper encircling band **80** shown in FIG. **8** has a portion **80***a* extending in one direction from the component **40** and a portion **80***b* extending in the opposite direction therefrom. In the same way the lower **82** has a portion **82***a* extending in one direction from the component **40** and a portion **82***b* extending in the opposite direction therefrom. The portions **80***b* and **82***b* respectively terminate in buckles **84** and **86** adapted to receive the free ends of the portions **82***a* and **80***a* of the bands **82** and **80**, these portions being formed with openings through which the swingable pin of each buckle is adapted to extend. Thus, it will be seen that the band portion **80***a* is inclined downwardly around the joint region to be fastened to the buckle **86** carried by the band portion **82***b*, while the band portion **82***a* is inclined upwardly around the joint region to be fastened to the buckle **84**. In the manner which is shown most clearly in FIGS. **12** and **13**, in the illustrated arrangement the band portion **82***a* extends over the band portion **80***a* while crossing the latter.

Moreover, it is to be noted that these band portions **80** and **82** are initially fastened when the brace is placed on the leg, so that thereafter the extension **66***b* extends spirally around the leg between the upper and lower bands **60** and **66** in the manner described above and as shown most clearly in FIGS. **12** and **13**. It is to be noted that the stretched extension **66***b* which extends spirally at least part of the way around the leg between the upper and lower bands exerts a force which tends to immobilize the leg with respect to possible twisting thereof around a vertical axis, so that this band structure contributes to the limiting of the free swinging movement of the leg at the joint to the single axis which coincides with the common axis of the pivots **24** and **46**. The remaining parts of the band structure will also contribute to this result, and an exceedingly effective and highly reliable positioning of the brace **10** on the leg, without possible shifting of the brace undesirably from the position in which it is initially placed on the leg, is achieved with this construction.

What is claimed is:

1. A brace for limiting a pair of limbs which are articulated to each other at a joint therebetween to swinging movement at the joint only about a single axis, comprising a pair of limb-engaging components to be located on the same side of the limbs in engagement therewith beyond the joint therebetween, a pair of arms respectively fixed to and extending from said pair of components, said arms respectively terminating in end regions situated distant from said components, first pivot means interconnecting said arms at said end regions thereof for swinging movement one with respect to the other about an axis which will coincide with the single axis to which the swinging movement of the limbs is to be limited, a joint-engaging component for engaging the joint between said limbs at a side of said limbs opposite from the side thereof engaged by said pair of said components, a pair of relatively stiff, curved members respectively fixed to said pair of limb-engaging components to extend therefrom around the pair of limbs to the side of the latter opposite from said pair of components, said members respectively terminating in end regions located adjacent said joint-engaging component, and second pivot means interconnecting said joint-engaging component and said end regions of said members for free swinging movement relative to each other about said axis which is to coincide with the single axis, whereby the limbs will be free to swing about the latter single axis while being prevented from swinging about any other axis, said joint-engaging component being supported exclusively by said second pivot means and said pair of curved members, so that the only connection between said pair of limb-engaging components and said joint-engaging component is through said curved members and second pivot means.

2. A brace for limiting a pair of limbs which are articulated to each other at a joint therebetween to swinging movement at the joint only about a single axis, comprising a pair of limb-engaging components to be located on the same side of the limbs in engagement therewith beyond the joint therebetween, a pair of arms respectively fixed to and extending from said pair of components, said arms respectively terminating in end regions situated distant from said components, first pivot means interconnecting said arms at said end regions thereof for swinging movement one with respect to the other about an axis which will coincide with the single axis to which the swinging movement of the limbs is to be limited, a joint-engaging component for engaging the joint between said limbs at a side of said limbs opposite from the side thereof engaged by said pair of said components, a pair of relatively stiff, curved members respectively fixed to said pair of limb-engaging components to extend therefrom around the pair of limbs to the side of the latter opposite from said pair of components, said members respectively terminating in end regions located adjacent said joint-engaging component, and second pivot means interconnecting said joint-engaging component and said end regions of said members for free swinging movement relative to each other about said axis which is to coincide with